COURT REQUESTS 'TRUTH' RECORDS

Group, Garrison Told to Show Files

Attorneys for Clay L. Shaw went a step further Thursday in their attack on their client's murder conspiracy charge by obtaining court orders commanding District Attorney Jim Garrison and three key members of Truth and Consequences to produce records of the group Monday.

Judge Edward A. Haggerty, to whose section of Criminal District Court Shaw's case is assigned, signed orders for issuance of subpenas on Garrison, oilman Joseph M. Rault Jr., 516 Audubon; businessman Cecil M. Shilstone, 26 Audubon blvd., and automobile executive Willard E. Robertson, 567 Lakeshore pkwy.

The orders, signed at the home of Judge Haggerty, who was ill Thursday, command production of records at a hearing Monday in his court on a motion to quash the conspiracy indictment and on other defense motions.

Meanwhile, Gordon Novel, through his attorney here, announced he has decided to withdraw his $50 million damage suit against Garrison and others, rather than return to New Orleans to make a deposition in the case.

Novel is living in Ohio, where he is fighting extradition to New Orleans, where the district attorney seeks him as a material witness in the assassination probe into the death of President John F. Kennedy.

Shaw's defense said it needs the records of the hearing to prove two articles of its quash motion.

Rault, Shilstone and Robertson were subpenaed to produce "the membership list and records of receipts and disbursements" of the group.

Garrison is ordered to show not only what funds he received from Truth and Consequences, but how these funds were disbursed.

One of the points the defense hopes to prove is its allegation that funds given to Garrison by the private organization have not been administered in accordance with the provisions of state law.

Truth and Consequences was organized by Rault, Shilstone and Robertson shortly after Garrison's investigation into the assassination of President John F. Kennedy was made public. He complained the publicity on expenditures of state funds was hindering his investigation.

The defense's motion to quash cites Revised Statute 39:235, dealing with receipt by state agencies of funds from private groups.

The statute says that the state agency shall:

1. Deposit the funds with the

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state treasurer and certify their source.

2. State the terms, conditions and purposes of the funds.

3. List names of trustees or administrators.

4. Give names of persons authorized to approve expenditures.

The other quash point dealt with in the orders charges that such contributions, without any accounting, are against the law and not moral.

QUASH MOTION

Contributions "without any accountability whatsoever" are "contrary to the public policy and statutory law of Louisiana, against good morals and decency, in conflict with the obligation of the district attorney to the public and a denial to your defendant of equal protection of laws . . ." The quash motion says.

Steven Plotkin, New Orleans attorney for Gordon Novel, said during a press conference Thursday that the elusive witness will withdraw his $50 million suit against District Attorney Jim Garrison and the Truth and Consequences group.

"I talked to Gordon Novel about this and he is very upset about having to take this action at this time," Plotkin said. "He has requested that the suit be voluntarily dismissed."

The action came after Federal District Judge James A. Comiskey ruled Wednesday that Novel would have to return to New Orleans to testify in order to press the suit. If he returned, Novel could be arrested on a warrant charging conspiracy to commit burglary in connection with the alleged burglary of a Houma munitions bunker.

"We intend to file the suit again at a later time," Plotkin continued. "Under the law we have one year from the time the alleged acts took place to refile it."

The suit charged that Novel was libeled and deprived of his constitutional rights by Garrison as a result of the funds given by T&C members.

BRIBE LAW

"I believe that it is against the public bribery statute for T&C to support a public officer with private funds," Plotkin said. "I definitely feel these people should reconsider."

Plotkin emphasized that his client is "willing and ready to return to this jurisdiction and to give any information he has to the court."

"But, the charges against him prevent him from doing this," Plotkin said. "Novel has always been willing to return if it was not for the burglary charges."

Plotkin added that he considered the burglary charges more serious than those of simple theft "which is non-payment of a bill for services rendered."

He said Novel's "best interests from a safety aspect" will be served if he does not return here.

from selling a series of newspaper articles but that legal defense fees reached $59,000. Early Ruby said attorney Melvin Belli

was paid $11,000 in cash in addition to expenses "which ran into the thousands" before Belli was fired by the family.